



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for October 20, 2008

For More Information:

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ARENA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT: At a recent public briefing, Council was presented with an overview of Nationwide's proposed \$250 million development of the northern edge of the Arena District. The plans call for over 200 new residential units, 260,000 square feet of office space, two parking garages, and a new two-story grocery store. Tonight, Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is bringing forth legislation that will allow the development plans to get underway. *Ordinance 1560-2008* authorizes the City to enter into a real estate purchase and sale contract with NWD Investments for the sale of 2.447 acres located at the southeast corner of Neil Avenue and Vine Street. Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) proceeds will be used to pay for infrastructure improvements. The legislation associated with the TIF, *ordinance 1554-2008*, will also be entertained by Council.

SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS FOR CITY HALL AND MUNICIPAL COURT: In the Finance Committee, chaired by President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#), legislation will be considered to enhance security at City Hall and the Franklin County Municipal Court. *Ordinance 1535-2008* authorizes the modification of two contracts for architectural and engineering consulting services related to planning details of the security measures in addition to design and construction administration on important City Hall maintenance projects. Councilmember Craig is co-sponsoring this legislation.

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY: *Ordinance 1590-2008*, sponsored by Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#), will improve government efficiency by making services available for individuals and businesses who wish to resolve their disputes and avoid filing a small claims case. This legislation appropriates \$84,000 to The Franklin County Municipal Court dispute resolution fund for all anticipated expenses associated with the enhancement of small claim services. Currently, this program schedules 2,500 mediations annually. A component of this program, the accounts mediation program, helps hundreds of businesses each year resolve accounts payable collection disputes.

TYSON SUPPORTING SENIORS: Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring legislation that will continue providing critical services to senior citizens. *Ordinance 1593-2008* will authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of

\$11,695,439 for the operation of various grant programs administered by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging. Some of the services provided through this funding include caregiver support and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).



PROVIDING HELP FOR INDIGENT MOTHERS AND CHILDREN: Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring legislation that will fund the Women, Children and Infant Program (WIC) through September 2009.

Ordinance 1534-2008 will authorize the City to accept and appropriate a \$5,155,488 grant to provide crucial health care for children during important stages in their growth and development. The WIC program provides food, nutrition counseling, and access to health services for low-income women, infants, and children under the age of five.

COUNCIL PURCHASING NEW UNIFORMS FOR FIREFIGHTERS: Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring legislation that will provide new uniforms for firefighters. *Ordinance 0967-2008* will authorize the expenditure of \$100,000 to purchase the uniforms. This purchase is intended to be sufficient until passage of the 2009 Budget.

****Councilmember Ginther is also sponsoring *resolution 0193X-2008*, to endorse Issue 81 and support the South-Western City School District Bond and Operating Levy. Of the 21,000 students in the South-Western City School District, more than one-third reside within Columbus. A vote for Issue 81 will help the South-Western City School District capture nearly \$206 million in tobacco settlement funds from the State of Ohio allowing the District to update technology, eliminate trailer classrooms, reduce maintenance costs and provide for all-day, every day kindergarten.****

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: In an effort to focus attention on the important role of neighborhood organizations, Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) invites area commissioners to offer a report to City Council on the issues impacting their communities. Tonight, George Walker, Jr., chair of the South Linden Area Commission, will provide an update of neighborhood activities—as well as ask and answer questions— before Council. Columbus currently has 16 area commissions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF NOTE:

- ✓ Councilmember Tavares will hold a public hearing to discuss the 2009 Consolidated Plan budget on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 5:30 PM. The Consolidated Plan and the related Action Plan combine into a single submission the planning and application aspects of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs. The plan represents a continuing commitment to provide quality housing and expanded economic opportunities to the community.
- ✓ Councilmember Craig will hold the second in a series of meetings dealing with the issue of domestic violence in Columbus on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 5:30 PM.
- ✓ Councilmember Ginther has scheduled a public briefing on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 4:15 PM to discuss the Mayor's proposal for updating parking fines and towing fees.